Financial support to BSNL

3730. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL is a commercial enterprise operating on commercial lines; and

(b) if so, why a massive financial support package of Rs. 2700 crores is proposed when the sector is already opened to private, domestic and foreign investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is a Public Limited Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 *inter-alia* to carry out the business of providing telecom services in the country.

(b) The underlying principle for providing relief to BSNL from time to time is to ensure that the viability of BSNL is not impaired on account of services provided by it, which are uneconomic but socially desirable. Government had accordingly approved recently reimbursement of Rs. 1408.9 crore to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) which is 2/3rd of Licence Fee (excluding USO levy) and Spectrum Charges payable by BSNL in the year 2004-05 and reimbursement of backlog of Rs. 591.02 crore on account of shortfall in reimbursement of Licence Fee and Spectrum Charges paid by BSNL for the years 2001-2002 to 2003-04.

Delegation of powers to TRAI

3731. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI does not have any power to penalize the cellular services operator in case of deficient service by these operations; and

(b) if so, whether Government are intending to give power to TRAI to deal with cellular operators in case of complaints about deficient service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) TRAI is a regulatory body established under the TRAI Act, 1997. Under

Section 29 of the Act, violation of directions of TRAI is punishable with fine which may extend to 1 lakh ruppees and in case of second or subsequent offence with fine which may extend to 2 lakh rupees and in the case of continuing contravention with additional fine which may extend to 2 lakh rupees for everyday during which the default continues. Further under Section 34 a Court not inferior to that of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or a Chief Judicial Magistrate of first class shall try any offence punishable under the Act on a complaint made by the Authority.

Demand of BSNL employees

3732. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the demands placed by the employees of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) how much loss the BSNL has incurred during recent agitation and strike programme of the employees;

(c) whether Government are going to concede to their demands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) (i) Implementation of non-post based time-bound promotion from (a) 9850-250-14600 to Rs. 11875-300-17275 - 4 years (b) Rs. 11875-300-17275 to Rs. 14500-350-18700 - 6 years. However, such officers in the scale of Rs. 11875-300-16750 who retire on completion of four years of service but prior to completion of six years of service or immediately on completion of six years of service may be given scale of Rs. 13000-350-18250 on case to case basis in order to benefit them on retirement. (c) Rs. 14500-350-18700 to Rs. 16000-400-20800 - 5 years. (d) Rs. 16000-400-20800 to Selection Grade (SG)/Junior Administrative Grade (JAG) - 5 years. All these promotions shall be made on fitness conditions.

(ii) Service Weightage - To provide 100% weightage of service rendered in Deptt. of Telecom (DOT)/Deptt. of Telecom Services (DTS)/ Deptt. of Telecom Operation (DTO) including adhoc/in-situ/Assured Career Progression (ACP)/lateral grade;